THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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NOTICE.

The Trustees of the Hindoo Patriot Newspaper and Press have this day appointed Babu Radhacharan Pal, son of the late Hon'ble Kristodas Pal, Rai Bahadur C. I. E., of No. 108 Baranossy Ghose's Street, Manager of the Hindoo Patriot Press, and authorised him to sign all bills and to grant receipts under his signature as Manager for all sums remitted to him. Muffussil subscribers are requested to remit their subscriptions to him.

With the consent and by desire of the Trustees.

RAJENDRALALA MITRA.
One of the Trustees.

Calcutta, September 20th, 1884.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 13TH OCTOBER.

THE FOLLOWING remarks appear in an Anglo-Indian contemporary *anent* the *Times*:—Of course we cannot forget the *Times* has sadly declined from the grave, dignified and potent organ of thought it long was. Its opinions are now crude and its language is flippant, and it often fails to discriminate between great subjects and small ones. Failing in the backbone, it has failed in all minor respects; so that it has ceased to be reliable as a medium of news, and exhibits no mortification at the lapses of its correspondents and reporters." We quote the above to show how the *Thunderer* has gone down in the estimation of the Europeans themselves. That it has of late been a powerful tool in the hands of correspondents is very true and this falling off we are willing to attribute to the want of information it formerly possessed.

WE SEE that the judges of the Bombay Court of Small Causes having been unable to agree whether a widow after remarriage should not forfeit the property received from her first husband, the case will have to be sent up to the High Court for settlement. Surely this disagreement ought not to have cropped up in the land which our friend of the *Indian Spectator* has been enlightening with sound and well-seasoned lectures on the necessity of widow-marriage, and we are highly cross with those Judges who by saying, "nay," have in a manner shewn the cold shoulder to our friend.

IT IS not India alone that is suffering from the vice of drinking In a former issue we had occasion to bring forward the drinking capacity of the British Isles, and we now come to show how much wine is drunk in the United States alone and at what rapid rate the habit has increased. In 1840 the amount of liquor consumed was 71,000,000 gallons and in 1883 the number has come up to 655,000,000, that is to say while the population has only trebled during the period, the liquor consumed has increased nearly ten fold. In its money value, the annual expenditure on liquor now exceeds 800,000,000, dollars, or £160,000,000. It appears that the vice is gradually reaching its culminating point, whence it must come down for all what the *Times* may have to say on the physique of water-drinkers—as being weaker than that of the gindrinker.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that at a meeting held at Birbhum at the instance of the Collector, Rs. 1700 were subscribed for helping the old and infirm to whom the Local Government have refused to show any mercy at this critical time. To the amount subscribed by the gentlemen invited, who, by the way, were chiefly landlords, the Rajah of Hetampore alone contributed Rs. 1000, and yet some of our philo-ryot Secretaries say that the Bengal landlords have no sympathy for their ryots and that they should as a class be knocked on the head. As for the policy of Government refusing help to the old and infirm we can say nothing. The duty of Government is limited to taking advantage of calamities to get public works done at a cheap price. The old, the infirm, and the infant who cannot work have no business to live as far as the Government is concerned. The sooner they die out, the quicker the opportunity of getting rid of non-productive animals. The less the number of mouths to feed, the less the strain on food. This is heartless writing, but it is the only corollary deducible from the policy in question.

IT IS reported that Mr. J A. Hearson, R. N., of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, has been appointed Professor of Engineering at the Royal Indian Civil Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, in succession to Professor Unwin, lately appointed to the City Guilds Technical Institute, South Kensington. We dare say the appointment is as good a one as any other that could have been made. But we utterly fail to see that any necessity for such an appointment exists. We have often expressed our opinion that the College should not be maintained with Indian money.

TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER.

A CONTEMPORARY hears that it is now under consideration whether every town which, from the construction and situation of its buildings, is liable to destructive fires, should not be compelled to procure one or more fire-engines for the protection of the community at large. Local Governments will shortly be consulted, and will be asked to submit statistics relating to the fires which have occurred during the past five years, and to the construction, whether of wood or other material, of the houses of the large towns, and their liability to fire. The idea is a good one, but we have no statistics yet to show the relation between the annual loss by fire, and that by fire brigades. On current municipal principles as expounded by the Bengal authorities the brigades should cost more than the amount of loss by accidental fires.

THE PARIS Correspondent of the *Pioneer* speaks of a French lady who is a victim of the Japanese craze still raging in Parisian Society. "In little more than a year Mdme Le Moyne spent £44,000 in capricious fancies. She made a journey to Japan itself to do her own marketing in their peculiar knick-knacks. At Cannes she built a villa, poetically called the Villa des Lotus, which cost £32,000 and erected a Japanese house which she had brought from Japan itself, with the Japanese who were to live in it, to give local colour to the Villa des Lotus." Even the Queen of modern luxury is borrowing her æsthetics from the east. But the Lady would have done more service to her country if instead of the curio, she had planted the simplicity of the east in her house.

ONE of the most remarkable effects of the repeal of the paper duty by Mr. Gladstone twenty years ago, when a crisis between the two Houses of Parliament was avoided by a timely concession of the Lords, is the great progress and development made in class and trade journalism. Without calculating the numerous organs of various benevolent and philanthropic institutions, or that large section of the press broadly denominated religious, and that still larger section devoted to literature, science, and art—all of which may be properly termed class papers—we find there are upwards of one hundred purely trade journals published in London alone. Almost invariably, ignoring politics and religion, these are papers which live exclusively for the trade to which they belong, and devote their columns entirely to such topics as the members of the trade may find a professional interest in reading.

THE SEMI-OFFICIAL *Journal de St Petersburg*, in an article commenting on the appointment of the Earl of Dufferin as Viceroy of India, says: "During his stay in Russia, Lord Dufferin has always evinced a desire to maintain the relations of the two countries upon a footing of mutual esteem, confidence, and goodwill. His Excellency has likewise been in a position to convince himself of the amicable and, pacific disposition of the Russian Government towards England. It may, therefore, be expected that his influence as Viceroy will contribute towards allaying any difficulties that might arise between the two countries, and that he would effectually support the efforts of the Russian Government to substitute for the old antagonism, for which there is no longer any ground, relations of good understanding, confidence, and reciprocity, which would be alike advantageous to England and Russia in Asia as well as in Europe, and to their interests in other parts of the world." No hocus pocus or any amount of cajolery will be able to hoodwink the eyes of any English Statesman as to the treacherous intentions of Russia towards India, so patent have they become of late.

THE HARD FATE of the two unfortunate engine-drivers on the Eastern Bengal Railway gives emphasis to this paragraph in the last *Pall Mall Budget*:—"What a graphic picture of the life of an engine-driver is that which the *Times* has published from the pen of one who has driven an express train for twenty-one years! During that period, says this typical spokesman of a hitherto inarticulate class, 'I have twice had my engine run off the rails and down the embankment, one collision the result of bad signalling, eight crank axles have broken under me, in all cases the engine came off the rails, and plenty of smaller things which I will not trouble you with' Adventures by rail are as exciting as adventures at sea, but as all who cross the ocean must share the risks of storm and tempest with the sailors, the latter are much more generally appreciated than the perils which the engine-driver and his fireman have to face by themselves. But what a suggestion it is that directors should qualify for their posts by doing journeys on the footplate! If we accept that principle we shall soon be compelling the Home Secretary to pass a night on a canal boat, or the Secretary for War to camp out with Tommy Atkins on the road to Khartoum."

WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER.

AMERICAN women have the power of controlling and punishing public-house keepers, who sell wines against their wishes, to their husbands. One of these cases has lately cropped up in Cincinati. A Mrs. Blakney has obtained a decree for a large sum of money, against a saloon-keeper for continuing to sell wine to her husband even after her repeated protests. We wonder how the Kaminis and Bidhumukhis of our country would raise the wind with the help of such a law!

THE AMOUNT deposited in the Post Office Savings Banks in India at the close of July was more than 98 lakhs, the property of more than 97,000 depositors, the average sum at the credit of each being a little over Rs. 100. The transactions in this branch of the Post Office business show an increase of 76 per cent. during the year, a fact which may be left to speak for itself.

A GOOD story is told of a lady in Australia, of exemplary life and much religious conviction, who left her church and went to the Salvation Army. Her minister was perplexed at her desertion, and called upon her for an explanation. No; she got no new gain in doctrine or in practice from her new religious surroundings. She had no spiritual consolations she had not previously enjoyed. How then was she happier by the change? The old lady burst in an ecstasy of happy recollection as she exclaimed, "Oh, sir, the big drum is such a comfort to me."

MR. CHARLES WINGATE, of New York, points out in the *Medico-Legal Journal*, published in that city, that sanitary legislation in England dates from a very early period. For instance, Edward II. decreed that a butcher who sold measled pork should be fined for the first offence, pilloried for the second, imprisoned and fined for the third, and expelled the town for the fourth. Richard II. took measures against the pollution of rivers. Henry VII. prohibited cattle-slaying within walled towns with three exceptions. Elizabeth enacted that only one family might dwell in a cottage. The plague, in the time of Charles II., led to many health enactments. More than two centuries ago we read that Shakespear's father was repeatedly fined by the authorities of Stratfordon-Avon for throwing garbage into the Street in front of his cottage.

A DESPATCH is in course of preparation at the Home Secretariat Office with the view of obtaining sanction either for the erection of a new Government House at Simla, costing five and a-half lakhs, on Observatory Hill, or else substantial additions to Peterhoff at the sacrifice of the existing gardens there. Is this to be the outcome of the demonstrations lately made in India against *going to the Hills*?

A CURIOUS marriage ceremony has taken place in the Edinburgh police-court. By an Act of Parliament passed in the reign of Charles II, irregular marriages were declared illegal and punishable. Under this statute a young man and a young woman were brought before Baillie Hall charged with having declared themselves to be husband and wife in the presence of witnesses, without registration or celebration. They pleaded guilty and, two witnesses having deposed to the correctness of the charge, the accused were each fined. The curious facts connected with the case are that the conviction becomes legally recognizable as a celebration of marriage, and the document recording the conviction becomes a certificate of marriage to the registrar.

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER.

QUEEN Victoria has sent a telegram to Queen Margherita of Italy, expressing the great sorrow she feels at the misfortune which has befallen Naples, and her sincere hope of a speedy cessation of the scourge. Queen Margherita immediately sent the despatch to the King. The German Emperor has sent a massage to King Humbert expressing his sincere admiration of his courageous conduct.

A CURIOUS case of elopement has happened in Paris. A gentleman went with his two daughters, aged respectively seventeen and eighteen, to the Opera one night. There being no room for all three in the same box, the two young ladies were accommodated in one, the father in another, next to it. At intervals he saw and conversed with his daughters, but at the end of the performance the party got separated going down the grand staircase, and the girls have not been heard of since.

THE *Journal des Debats*, in a leading article, styles M. de Woestyrie's brochure "Sus l'Angleterre" a hash of absurdities, and declares that the real public in France have neither hate nor hostility against England. The distinguished deputy, M. Edouard Lockroy, in the *Rappel*, speaking of the pamphlet in question, says that it is high time that such indecent attacks on England should cease; England, he declares, being the only power capable, in conjunction with France, of combating the influence of Germany.

LONGMAN'S Magazine contains the following poem from the pen of Lady Cork in memory of her kinsman, Earl Canning:—

Great son of almost equal sire,
Left to us but in marble now!
What youthful heart shall beat the higher
For gazing on that classic brow!
What future minds of thee shall learn,
To stand, withstand, to bear, forbear,
From just resolve, nor swerve nor turn,
Nor bend 'neath crushing weight of care.
An empire tottered to its base,
Wild panic overspread the land,—
Reason to rage had given place
But for that firm restraining hand.
He brav'd the storm, watched, guarded, toil'd,
Till "Clemency's" opprobrious name
Upon the clamourers recoiled,
His glory, and their lasting shame!
Then, amid honours grandly won,
And—valued most—his sovereign's praise,
The statesman's work on earth was done,—
With end of work came end of days.
So, as when conquering fight is over,
On field of battle soldiers lie,
Heart-stricken, bowed with anguish sore,
The widower came home to die,
And so two generations sleep,
'Neath fretted roof, in vaulted bed,
While silent watch two statues keep,
And in their names their lives are read.

THE AMERICAN is nothing if not inventive. He will never consent to use his hands to do a thing when it could be done by the help of a machine, and will never rest till he has invented one to supersede the hands. An illustration of this is afforded in a recent announcement. An American of New York has invented a machine which would supplant punkhas by supplying cold air. The manner in which this cold air will be supplied will be the same as in supplying gas and water. Indeed the long felt desideratum of self-moving punkhas will be removed by the invention, but we do not know if the luxury will be cheaper than the wages of a punkah coolie.

WE ARE indebted to the *Pioneer* for the following item of news regarding the advance of the Boundary Commission: "The AFGHAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION have so far made fair progress across the Beluch Desert, though our latest news is only up to the 5th instant. On that day Colonel Ridgeway and party had reached Gazeh-Chah, the marches from Nushki having been Band 25 miles, Zuru 17, Kani 18, and Gazeh Chah 17. The arrangement under which the Commission, divided into three parties, marches *en echelon* seems to work satisfactorily, as at each halting place only 6,000 gallons of water are drunk per day, and the wells are equal to supplying this. The next stages beyond Gazeh-Chah are Safia 15 miles, and Shah Ismail 17. At the latter place the Mission officers escorted by the Cavalry will go northwards through Arbu to Baggat on the Helmund, 75 miles in all, and thence work down the river to Khwala Ali. The Infantry with the baggage will march westwards and then north-westwards to Khwaja Ali direct, their halting places from Sha Ismail being Salian 16 miles, Muzhdan 8, Wamu 8, Galichah 16, and Khwaja Ali 52. There is no water on the route for the last 52 miles, but the arrangements made by the Amir's officials and the supplies carried by the infantry and followers will, it is hoped, prevent any severe suffering. The Mission will rendezvous at Khwaja Ali on the 15th or 16th instant, and will then push on to Lash-Juwain.

FRIDAY, 17TH OCTOBER.

OUR CONTEMPORARY the *Indian Spectator* has been so far carried away by his pet project of widow marriage that he would have it done any how and at any sacrifice of economic principles. He has now found out that money is the only question which prevents him from bringing his plan to a successful issue—as if all other obstacles for the final acceptence of his measure have been removed from before him—and has invoked the aid of the state purse to supply him with funds to undertake the remarriage of the widows of this country and that for the reason because the Government has undertaken to educate the people of this country and to provide them with dispensaries &c—&c. Could this request be more sensible than asking the state to buy a gold necklace a-piece for the widows, before they bind themselves to the ties of conjugality? Some time ago a political in one of the western states ordered his Nazir to get some 300 women married who were clamorous for husbands, but the Nazir failed and wanted a law to compel men to marry.

THE FOLLOWING is the programme of the Viceroy's tour:

His Excellency will leave Simla at 10-45 A. M, on 10th November, and arrive at Pinjore, at 7 P. M., halt at Pinjore, on 11th November, leave Pinjore on 12th at 3-30 P. M., arrive at Ambala at 7-30 P. M., dine in the train and proceed to Amritsar; arrive at Amritsar on 13th at 7 30 P. M visit the golden temple and the city, breakfast in the train and leave for Delhi; arrive at Delhi on 14th, halt there on 15th and 16th, leave on the night of 17 h for Agra, arrive at Agra on 18th, possibly staying *en route* at Alighar for a few hours, halt at Agra on 19th and 20th, visit Mattra on 21st, returning in the evening; halt at Agra on 22nd and 23rd, leave Agra on the evening of 24th for Benares, arrive there on 25th halt on 26th and 27th, leave Benares on 28th for Darjiling; arrive at Darjiling on 29th, halt on 30 h. leave on the evening of 1st December for Calcutta, arrive at Calcutta on the morning of Tuesday, 2nd December,

THE PUNJAB POLICE is preparing a plan for photographing criminals. We might well remind the authorities of the confusion the system might lead to by quoting a scientific contemporary who tells us the following story of the zeal of the Russian police in the discovery of a man who was photographed. The Prefect of St. Petersburgh 'wanted' a Nihilist, and sent round to every Bureau in the Empire 6 photographs of the man each shewing him in a different position and the result exceeded his expectation. An active Superintendent from the Trans-Caucasian station sent him the following cheering telegram. "Your Excellency,—I have the honour to report that I have already arrested 4 of the atrocious criminals whose portraits you recently sent, and from information received, confidently hope to capture the other two very shortly."

A LIKELY would-be successor to the *guddy* of Kashmir has recently seen the light. The second son of the Maharaja of Kashmir, Mian Ram Singh, has been blessed with a male child who stands a chance of succeeding to the throne as the heir apparent, Pertab Sing, is childless and consequently Jummu is in jubilee just now.

A NEWS-LETTER from Cabul makes mention of the doings of the Russians in Merv. It is said that fortifications have been erected, and arms and ammunition, brought from Khiva, stored up in large quantities. The Russians are also said to be constructing two roads from Merv; one to run to the Oxus and towards Samarcand, and another in the direction of Herat. A large number of labourers are employed on these roads, besides a regiment of Sappers; and efforts are being made to get on with the work before the snow falls.

ON WEDNESDAY the 17th September last a deputation from the Woman's Suffrage Society at Edinburgh waited on Sir Stafford Northcote for presenting a memorial to him to plead their cause in Parliament to allow women householders to vote in elections, as for want of such suffrage the nation would be deprived of a large amount of intelligence, experience and patriotic interest, possessed by women, and also an important amount of property held by women would be excluded from representation. In reply to the address Sir Stafford Northcote said that he had always held the opinion that women should not be excluded from the suffrage in those cases in which they were called upon to discharge the duties of other electors, and to pay the taxes and so forth which were laid on them. He did not see any fairness in making an exception in the case of a woman where property was represented as held in the hands of a woman, and which property would have given a vote if held by a man. His sympathy was entirely with those who were promoting a measure of justice to women in the matter.

SATURDAY, 18TH OCTOBER.

ACCORDING to a Goa paper, a singular case of fraud has been committed by an interpreter of the District Court of Bicholim, Goa. For a long time past, this man has been collecting defaced stamps, and after passing them through a certain liquid, which, it is asserted, had the property of obliterating the post marks, exposed them for sale as genuine and unused stamps. Until now the fraud has remained undetected. Formerly this ingenious individual was employed in the Post Office.

REUTER tells us of serious disturbances taking place between the Liberals and Conservatives at Birmingham on 13th October, while the latter were holding a meeting which was to have been addressed by Sir Stafford Northcote and Lord Randolph Churchill, both of whom, it is said, narrowly escaped violence from the assembled mob. The Liberal party generally outnumbering the Conservatives, succeeded in dispersing the assembly. It seems Mr. Gladstone is yet the people's William and probably at the ensuing election he will be able to keep his opponent at a convenient distance from him.

WE ARE glad to learn that His Highness the Maharaja of Bhurtpore has abolished all transit duties except those on liquor and other intoxicating drugs, and that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General has acknowledged with satisfaction this liberal policy of His Highness. And yet our Government retains such transit duties under the guise of town duties and the Government of Great Britain cannot abolish the duty on Indian silver ware. Well may the *Times* complain of misgovernment in the Native States.

IT IS reported that Russia is about to annex the island of Quelpart, at the entrance of the Korean Strait as a convenient place of arms for her fleet in the China seas. What a convenient word is this, "annex!" who would have thought of it before Lord Dalhousie?

THE GERMAN Government has passed a bill, making it obligatory on unmarried officers and military officials to subscribe to the Widows and Orphans Fund for making provision for the widows and orphans of officers and men in the Imperial Army and Navy. This is robbing Peter to pay Paul.

PROFESSOR Moseley is said to have recently discovered a mollusc which owns no fewer than 11,000 eyes. What will our friend Argus do after this?

THE *Hindu*, of Madras, hears from London that the Salem rioters will almost certainly be released before the opening of Parliament; otherwise there will be a grand fight over the matter in the Lower House in October.

ON DIT Tantia Bhil, the notorious character and the scourge of the Central Provinces has issued a notice that he would pay rupees ten thousand to any pleader in the Central Provinces who will be able to extricate him from all the criminal charges that might be brought against him. We must take the news with much reserve, for, firstly, so far as we know of him, he is not the likely man to surrender himself to any Magistrate or the Police, and secondly there is no vakil anywhere who would be able to bring him out scot free.

A CURIOUS case of accident from a fragment of melted lead solidifying on the surface of the eye without injuring it, was recently brought before the Bordeaux Society of Anatomy and Physiology, by Dr. Perrier, who showed that the immunity of the eye from burning was really due to the "spheroidal state." The melted jet of lead was at a higher temperature than 171 deg. Cent., the temperature necessary to produce the spheroidal state. Hence when it is arrived at the surface of the eye it vaporised the moisture of the latter. When it had cooled below 171 deg. Cent. the lachrymal secretion prevented the metal from scorching the ball. But how did the foreign matter remain on the conjunction without causing irritation?

BABOO KHETRA NATH MUSTAFI, a philanthropic zemindar, has contributed Rs. 100 towards the Relief

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Fund, and has distributed paddy to the value of Rs 2,000 among his own ryots. He is said to be unremitting in his efforts to assist the people suffering from scarcity in his quarter. Mr. Rivers Thompson should send him a copy of the Tenancy Bill bound in brocade by way of a prize.

THE PIONEER says:—"It is understood that Lord Dufferin brings out two Private Secretaries with him, one probably a counterpart of the man—if not the man himself—who has generally been attached to his lordship as shorthand-writer and private amanuensis; the other with duties of a more ordinary and general character. Apparently the future Viceroy selects his doctor in India, in which case Dr. Anderson, Lord Ripon's medical attendant, will, and should, have a good chance. Then, too, probably Dr. Franklin, Civil Surgeon of Simla, may see the departing Viceroy safe home. Only one of Lord Dufferin's family, Lady Helen, the eldest daughter, accompanies them—a very graceful addition to the Vice-regal *entourage*.

DURING the week ending 11th October 1884 there were 205 deaths in the town showing a decrease of 18 deaths compared with those of the preceding week, of which 10 were from cholera, 69 from fever, 17 from bowel complaints, 3 from accidents and the rest from other causes.

WE BEG to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications: 1. Report of the Punjab Provincial Committee on Education 1884. 2. Report of the Central Provincial Committee on Education 1884. 3. Returns of the Rail borne Traffic of Bengal 1884. 4. The Hahnemann for October 1884. 5. Orissa High Level Canal, its advantages and disadvantages, 1884. 6. Navajivun for Kartic, 1291 B. E. 7. Pataka, a weekly paper Part, I 1291 B. E. 8. The Calcutta Signs of the Times Advertiser for March 1884. 9. Our difficulties and Wants in the Path of the Progress of India.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London October 13.—With reference to a scheme, published in the *Standard* of the 10th instant, of a proposed redistribution of seats the Marquis of Hartington has publicly declared that it was merely a draft of a scheme prepared by the Committee, and has not yet been under consideration of the Government.

14.—England has agreed to the Conference proposed for Germany for securing the freedom of commerce on the river Congo. Serious disturbances took place between the Liberals and Conservatives at Brimingham yesterday. The Liberals invaded the place where the Conservatives were holding a meeting, and succeeded in dispersing the assembly. Many people were injured in the *mêlé*. Sir Stafford Northcote and Lord Randolph Churchill, who were addressing the meeting narrowly escaped violence from the mob. It is stated that the Duke of Connaught will take the Command of the South East District in the middle of April next.

16.—Lord Dufferin, speaking at a banquet given in his honour at Belfast yesterday, dwelt upon the great difficulties of governing India. With regard to Central Asia, he said he did not anticipate any disagreement with Russia.

17th.—Colonel Warren has received orders to proceed to Cape Colony, in order to restore British authority in Bechuanaland.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1884.

AGRICULTURAL DANGER IN INDIA.

I.

MR. WILFRID BLUNT who visited India last cold season has contributed to the *Fortnightly Review* an admirable article on the effects of British rule on the agricultural classes in this country. During his six months' stay in the country, Mr. Blunt took very great pains to make himself acquainted with the actual state of things existing here. He made a tour from one end of the continent to the other and freely mixed with all classes of the people. Most of the English tourists who visit India place themselves under official guidance and thus see every thing with official spectacles. Mr. Blunt carefully avoided this mistake. He justly remarks that in India, as elsewhere in the East, official position is a bar to knowledge, and official protection a perpetual hindrance. Mr. Blunt, accordingly, avoided Government houses and Collector's bungalows, and this enabled him to see the condition of the people with his own eyes. He says:—"Once under the official roof a veil of suspicion seemed to divide me from the people; and it was strange to meet again almost in the position of servants, honorable native gentlemen one had met some hours, perhaps, before as equals and as friends. Yet such is the painful unreality of social intercourse between the governing class and the governed, and such in consequence their ignorance of each other's thoughts." These remarks we commend to English tourists who come out to India with a view to learn its condition under British rule.

Considering the opportunities he had had to acquire a correct knowledge of the state of things and the good use he made of them, Mr. Blunt's claim to be heard upon the Indian question can not be disputed. The first thing which struck him in his travels in India is the abject poverty of the peasant in those parts of the country which do not enjoy the blessing of a permanent settlement. Mr. Blunt made a prolonged tour in the Deccan, and took particular care to make himself acquainted with the condition of the Kunbi. He states that travelling by either of the great lines of railway which bisect the continent, one need hardly leave one's own carraiage to become convinced of the extreme poverty of the Indian peasant. He continues:—"From Madras to Bombay, and from Bombay again to the Ganges Valley, distances by rail of seven hundred and eight hundred miles, one passes not half-a-dozen towns, nor a single village which has a prosperous look. The fields, considering the general lightness of the soil, are not ill-cultivated; but there is much land; and in the scattered villages there is an entire absence of well-built houses, enclosed gardens, or large groves of fruit trees, the signs of individual wealth which may be found in nearly every other Oriental country. The houses are poorer than in Asia Minor or Syria, or even Egypt, and are uniform in their poverty. There are no residences of any people better off than the poorest, and the little congregations of mud huts are without one redeeming feature in the shape of stone-built mansion or white washed dwelling at all superior to the rest. Such exceptions one finds in every province of the Ottoman Empire, except perhaps in Irak, and one finds them in Persia. But throughout the great central plateau of the peninsula they are wholly absent." Such is the testimony of an impartial and careful observer and how strangely does it contrast with rose-coloured official accounts! Mr. Blunt clearly explains the special evils from which the Deccan peasant is suffering. He points out that under Native rule, though the land assessment was very likely as high as now, it was mitigated by custom. Under the rigid and harsh revenue system introduced by the English, the rent is exacted to the uttermost farthing without any regard to the character of the crops or the outturn of the fields. But under Native rule the ryot obtained remissions in bad seasons when his crop was poor. The British landlord is an inexorable tax-gatherer and knows no mercy with regard to the actual amount of the assesment. Mr. Blunt made careful enquiries to ascertain what proportion it bore to the gross value of the crop. He puts it at from 35 to 40 per cent. in the Deccan. He rightly ridicules the statement made to the Famine Commission that "the land tax throughout British India is from 3 per cent. to 7 per cent of the gross outturn." That this estimate is far below the mark has been conclusively proved by Mr. Seymour Keay. It is, however, not merely the amount of the assessment nor merely the rigidity of its collection which weighs upon the Deccan peasantry. There are other causes of poverty directly due to the British connection. The most important of these causes is the destruction of Native industries under British rule. "Under the ancient system of Native rule," writes Mr. Blunt, "and during the early days of the Company, the agricultural population was not wholly dependent on agriculture. It had certain home industries which employed its leisure during those seasons of the year when labour in the fields was useless. There was the carrying trade which could be engaged in with the bullock used at other times for ploughing. There was peddling of ghee and other home-made wares; and above all there was the weaving industry, which employed the women and the men, too, during their idle time, and helped them to pay their rent." But all these sources of income have been destroyed, and the ryot has been reduced to the simple labour of his fields. Then the working of the new Forest Laws has deprived him of some privileges which he enjoyed before. The leaves of trees are largely used in this country for manure and the supply is now cut off. The privilege of cutting fire-wood in the jungles which the people had enjoyed from time immemorial has been seriously curtailed and the cultivator must now burn the cow-dung which he formerly applied to his fields. The right of grazing in the forests has been taken away, and the cattle are dying of hunger. Rightly enough does Mr. Blunt hold the new Forest Laws responsible for some of the present state of discontent among the peasantry. He also speaks of the pressure of the salt-tax on the poor. There can be no manner of doubt as to the oppressive character of this impost in the poor districts of the Deccan. Mr. Blunt points out that the comparatively well-to-do ryot of Bengal and Northern India does not feel the pressure of the salt-tax and does not complain of it. The salt-tax in Southern India was most unwisely increased by Sir John Strachey with a view to the equalization of the duties throughout India. The tax was wantonly reduced in those parts of the country where the people did not complain of the weight of its burden, and enhanced in places where the people were too poor to bear it. All this was done simply because Sir John Strachey had a craze for symmetrical arrangements and theoretic excellence. Lastly, Mr. Blunt speaks of the hopeless indebtedness of the Indian peasantry and he explains briefly how this evil originated. The revenue system introduced by the English, it is needless to say, is at the root of the indebtedness of the agricultural classes in this country. Formerly, the land tax was paid in kind, and the ryot did not find it necessary to convert his grain into silver. A portion of the actual produce of his fields was paid to his landlord. But this scientific and barbarous system did not find favour with the British Government. The assesment must be fixed and regular and it must be paid in money. The substitution of payment in money for payment in kind is the main cause of the indebtedness of the agricultural classes in most parts of the country.

AGRICULTURAL DANGER IN INDIA.

II.

REMEDIAL MEASURES.

The most interesting portion of Mr. Blunt's paper under notice is that in which he discusses remedial measures for the evils described above. He rightly holds that mere palliatives will not do. Remedies which touch the surface only and do not go to the root of the disease are worse than useless. We have steadily maintained this view since the introduction of Mr. Hope's Deccan Ryots Bill into the Vice-regal Legislative Council five years ago. Mr. Blunt has no faith in legislative remedies for the the evils from which the ryots suffer. He tells nothing but the truth when he says that finance, not legislation, is the cause of all the evils complained of, and suggests that until financial arrangements are put upon a sound footing, other prescriptions can be of no real value. He pertinently points out that in framing his Budget, the Finance Minister of India has to look principally to the interests, not of India, but of England; and that two English interests have to be served first, and before any attention can be paid to the necessities of those who supply the revenue. These are (1) that the Anglo-Indian Administration must be maintained in full employment, in pay and allowances; (2) that every kind of advantage must be given to English trade. Mr. Blunt is prevented by want of space from arguing out the question of the excessive costliness of the civil and military establishment. But this is so well known that it is not necessary to dwell upon it at any length. No one has written more ably on the subject than Mr. Fawcett in his admirable volume on Indian Finance. The ryot must not only pay the extravagant salaries enjoyed by European officials in the country, but must also subordinate his own interests to those of the English trader. The Indian import duties have been abolished simply because the English traders demanded the measure for their own benefit. The imported goods consumed in India are luxuries used only by the

well-to-do classes, and especially by Europeans. No ryot in all India wears any cotton clothing of foreign make, and the abolition of the import duties has not, therefore, benefited him in the least. "Import duties then," observes Mr. Blunt, "would tax the rich only, and the rich in India are hardly taxed at all. Yet, because Free Trade is of advantage to England, India must forego her own advantage. This, the natives say, may be a political necessity, but it is not ruling India financially for India's good. I confess I do not see where the flaw in their argument lies. They say, moreover, that Free Trade in manufactured goods has destroyed the Native industries and given nothing in their stead." We must not forget that England, the great apostle of Free Trade, raises no less than 20 millions sterling from import duties; but India was made to surrender the small revenue which she derived from such duties. Lastly, Mr. Blunt shows that the prime measure of agricultural reform needful in India is the granting of a fixed and unalterable assessment of the land revenue demand to every province—such an assessment as was granted to Bengal by Lord Cornwallis at the end of the last century,—and of limiting thereby the preposterous claim of Government to all ownership in land. "This right of state ownership," remarks Mr. Blunt, "has worked every where, or nearly everywhere, its full natural result of impoverishment and disaffection; and Bengal, which has been exempted from its action, has alone remained prosperous. It is impossible for me in the limits of space imposed upon me to argue out the great question here. But I intend to return to it on a future occasion and it will be sufficient for me now to say, that the value placed by Native opinion on a fixed revenue settlement is the cause of the strong agitation actually in progress against the Bengal Rent Bill. This measure, in spite of Lord Ripon's immense popularity, is decidedly unpopular, and Native politicians see in it a first blow struck at the prosperity of the only province which has hitherto escaped the universal drain of wealth into the Imperial Coffers; nor am I without reason to believe that so it was intended not by Lord Ripon, but by some of his advisers. At present, however, I only state the fact that a permanent settlement of the land revenue is urgently demanded by all India." This must be the opinion of every impartial observer who compares the condition of the Bengal ryots with that of the peasantry in the temporarily settled provinces of the Empire. A permanent settlement of the revenue is the one thing indispensable to an amelioration of the condition of the Indian peasantry.

THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE TOWARDS INDIA.

THE utterances of a distinguished Native statesman like Raja Sir Madhava Rao on the great question of the day—the Russian advance towards India—are entitled to careful and attentive consideration at the hands of the British Government. As the London *Times* justly remarks, no other Native Minister can speak with the same authority on the subject as the late Dewan of Travancore and Baroda. His experience embraces English official life and residence at Native capitals in almost equal proportions. The advocates of a forward frontier policy have come to the front since the Muscovite annexation of Merv and Sarrakhs, and they are again telling us that England must advance upon Kandahar and Herat, if she means to preserve her Asiatic Empire. We have from the beginning strongly protested against the course suggested by Sir Edward Hamley and other supporters of Lord Beaconsfield's "scientific frontier" notion, and it affords us no small gratification to find that Sir Madhava takes the same view of the question. He strongly insists on the impolicy of treating Afghanistan as a feudatory State. He says:—"Treat Afghanistan as an independent State, and treat it with as much consideration and kindness as may be fairly possible. Let Afghanistan know your determination in this respect, so that it may not suffer from doubt and uncertainty. This declaration may even prove highly gratifying to Afghanistan, and may create some gratitude for the time being, which may be of some use in the fixation of a strong frontier between that country and the Punjab. Time alone can decide how long Afghanistan will be able to maintain its independence against Russia. If it is to lose its independence let it attribute the loss to Russia, and not to the British Government. Let the resentment of Afghanistan be thus turned against Russia, and not against the British Power. Whichever Empire brings Afghanistan under its domination is sure to be weakened and hampered." This is the language of genuine statesmanship. Nothing could be a greater mistake than to treat Afghanistan as a feudatory state. The ruler of that country, it should be clearly understood, will never accept the position of a protected Indian prince. It was Lord Lytton's inability to realize this that involved us in the second Affghan War. If the Afghans suspect that England entertains designs against their independence they will at once become her most implacable enemies. They will resent interference from Tashkend as bitterly as they have resented it from India. Sir Madava Rao is strongly opposed not only to the occupation of any portion of the Amir's territory but also to the construction of a railway through it. He writes. "To pierce Afghanistan with a railway the permission of the Amir will be necessary. It may well be doubted if the Amir will give the permission; and if he gave the permission it may well be doubted if he would long adhere to it. Such despotic rulers are often very whimsical. Suppose he gives the permission and afterwards revokes the same. Is the English Government to retire after having actually commenced the line. It will have to make a stand and fight. The people of Afghanistan will oppose the railway without regard to any permission which the Amir may have given. . . . . It is needless to adduce further particulars to show that a considerable military force will be indispensably necessary to protect the whole line during construction, and it will be an unavoidable disadvantage to employ such force in detachments all along the extended line . . . . In short, to make the railway in Afghanistan territories, you will have no alternative but practically to conquer and hold by force a large part of these territories." Such sensible and thoughtful remarks we commend to the advocates of a forward frontier policy. We do not hesitate to say that the construction of a railway in Afghanistan will ultimately involve the annexation or the permanent military occupation of that country, either of which courses would be simply ruinous to the finances of India.

Sir Madava Rao recognises in plain and emphatic terms that it is not with a friendly object that Russia has been approaching India; and that nothing would arrest her advance in this direction. He also states distinctly that it would be infatuation to trust to paper treaties to restrain Russia; and that the proposed demarcation of the boundary between Muscovite territory and Afghanistan would not stop her progress. What should, then, be done to defend the frontier of India? On this point Sir Madava Rao's advice is brief. He observes: "Let the material defences of the frontier be on or near the frontier itself. Go not much beyond the frontier in reliance on the friendship of Afghanistan. Avoid the fatal error of exposing your main defences to Afghan attack from behind as well as to the Russian attack in front. Run not the smallest risk of your communications being cut off at your back. Concentrate your defences on one line, the best to be selected. Let Russia feel the greatest strength of the defence at the first encounter. It is of vital importance to avoid the risk of check or discomfiture at the outset of a great war, such as might dishearten the soldiery in front or the population behind. Have a second line of defence to fall back upon in case of necessity * * * No expense should be grudged in the construction of a perfect line of defence in this direction, as perfect as modern military science can make it." The sterling good sense which pervades the passage just quoted cannot be sufficiently admired. It would be a great mistake to go much beyond the frontier to meet Russia. The risk of check or discomfiture should be carefully avoided. A defeat like that of Maiwand, experienced at the hands of Russia, would be simply disastrous.

THE NORTH-WEST CANALS IN 1882-83.

FROM the Irrigation Revenue Report of the North-Western Provinces for 1882-83 we learn that the total outlay on the capital account of canals in those provinces to the end of that year amounted, in round numbers, to 7 crores of rupees. Of this sum 6½ crores represent the expenditure on the canals classed as Productive Public Works. The gross assessments of the year, we notice, amounted to Rs. 64,59,183, and the working expenses to Rs. 21,58,131. The net revenue was, therefore, 43 lakhs in round numbers The interest charge on the capital amounted to Rs. 24,96,008. Deducting this amount from the net revenue, the assessments exhibit a clear surplus of Rs. 18,05,044 as compared with Rs. 16,29,189 in the previous year. The actual direct revenue realized from all sources during the year was 66¾ lakhs. But we are not told what portion of the amount collected represented enhanced land revenue due to irrigation. Mr. Cotton in his admirable little work on India, pertinently remarks:—"How much has been expended upon these irrigation works, and how much profit they return, it is impossible to calculate accurately, for the funds are mixed up with those of land revenue." In Bengal the canal accounts are not, for obvious reasons, mixed up with those of land revenue. In Northern India, where the Government demand is periodically revised and each revision results in enhanced assessments, it is impossible, under the existing system, to form a correct judgment on the financial results of irrigation works. The truth of the matter is that the Irrigation Department cannot afford to lay accurate accounts before the public, for if it were to do so, the real state of things would be unpleasantly disclosed to the world. That some irrigation schemes pay handsomely is beyond dispute; but it should also be remembered that their circumstances are exceptional. The financial results of the North-West Canals during 1882-83 appear, at first sight, to have been extremely favourable, as they exhibit a clear surplus of upwards of 18 lakhs after paying expenses under all heads. The Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the Chief Engineer's report does not, however, show the financial position of each scheme separately. That the Eastern Jumna Canal returned a handsome profit may be taken for granted. This canal had for its basis the old works constructed by the Mogul Government, and the expenditure incurred on it by the British Government represents nothing like its real cost. The Eastern Jumna Canal is probably the only irrigation work in the North-Western Provinces, which shows a clear balance-sheet. The old Ganges Canal, though fairly successful, has not realized any thing like the sanguine expectations of its authors. The Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution states that the total interest charges from the commencement of irrigation operations in the North-Western Provinces amount to Rs. 4,73,51,263 and the total net receipts realized to Rs. 4,19,72,531, thus leaving a deficit of Rs. 53,78,732. This apparently favourable result is reached by pursuing methods which are not recognized by any sound system of book-keeping. A private Company which constructs canals as an investment would add the deficit of each year to the capital account. But the Indian Irrigation Department does nothing of the kind. The system which it pursues is to reduce the accumulated interest charges whenever there is a surplus. It is by pursuing this extraordinary course that the Irrigation Department manages to show more favourable results than a private Company. Besides, the Government, spending the public revenues, can afford to carry on costly experiments which would ruin private capitalists who must be guided by strictly commercial considerations.

The area irrigated during the year under report was nearly two million acres, which considerably exceeded that of the previous year, which was then the highest on record. Of the

total area irrigated, two-thirds were under rabi, and one-third under kharif crops. The percentage of the "double cropped" area rose from 16·7 in 1881-82 to 17·6 per cent. in 1882-83. "The natural tendency of cultivators" observes the Lieutenant-Governor, "is to over crop the land on the first introduction of canal water, and it is difficult to check this tendency. The mischief which is done by over cropping canal-irrigated lands is very great. The ryot, it is well known, cannot afford to manure his fields properly. And double-cropping without proper manuring exhausts the soil in a short time." Colonel Corbett, in his excellent work entitled "The Climate and Resources of Upper India," writes:—"Canals and Irrigations are doing more than any thing else to destroy the agricultural prosperity of the country and to reduce land formerly fruitful to a state of sterility." The Colonel gives the following extract from the letter of an indigo-planter addressed to him;—"The produce in canal-irrigated lands, in my opinion, will be worse yearly; what with sowing the same seed, and with this constant cropping and flooding, the lands are being thoroughly exhausted. I remark yearly a great falling off of leaf, and this, by-the-bye, appears to be increasing. Canal plant grows too quickly; it is, in fact, forced; and it consequently cannot draw sufficient support from the soil fast enough to keep pace with its rapid growth. If I am right in my conjecture, produce will get worse as the soil becomes more exhausted &c." Mr. Buck has admitted that the language used by Colonel Corbett, though strong, is justified by the circumstances of the case. "It is certain," he writes, "that years have passed during which canal water has been undermining the fertility of the soil which it has irrigated without any notice having been taken of the process, until suddenly our revenue administrators have been startled to find that in certain tracts of canal irrigated land rents cannot be paid and crops have ceased to grow." Again, "Many a native cultivator or landlord, has said to the writer (Mr. Buck):—"When the canal first came into our village we thought our fortunes were made. For two or three years the village was a garden, but year after year we have seen, the crops grow shorter, the ears become lighter until now our outturn is far less than when we had no canal at all." We must not shut our eyes to the evil effects of irrigating ordinary unmanured soil.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

II.

WE propose to-day to consider more closely than our space permitted us in a recent issue to do, the details discussed in the letter of the Committee of the British Indian Association on the important question of Local Self-Government in Bengal. The Bill as it stands after its manipulation by the Select Committee, is different from the original Bill, in many points of considerable inportance. The amended Bill provides for District Boards, in the place of a Central Board in the Metropolis, and for a system of control, materially differing from what was originally proposed. There is to be a District Board in every District and a Local Board and Union Committees in every Sub-division which the Local Government may consider fit to enjoy the privileges of Local Self-Government. In all places where Union Committees may be established, Local Boards will also be formed, the Union Committees being, in fact, only the agents of the Local Board for the discharge of the duties vested in them. The District Boards will, therefore, be purely administrative bodies in districts in which no Local Boards will be established, and they will be both administrative and controlling bodies in districts in which Local Boards will be established. The Select Committee could devise no scheme for making District Boards purely controlling bodies, and in so far, there has been a departure from the instructions of the Secretary of State.

District Boards are to consist of delegates from Local Boards, which are to consist of representatives from purely rural tracts, municipal towns sending no such representative to such Boards. This seems to them, say the Committee, to be something like making the nerve-centres perform the functions of the brain. The nominated members, it is true, may be drawn from Municipal towns, but the Bill contemplates the absence of appointed members in advanced districts and their ultimate disappearance from all. A District Board without any regularly elected delegates on it from Municipal towns within the district, which are the centres of intelligence and wealth, would be far from a truly representative body, and would by no means secure itself the highest available ability within the district. The small units have probably recommended themselves from a desire to give throughness to the scheme, but why should the authorities fail to understand that the efficiency of the main bodies is of greater consequence? The distinction between Sadar and Mafassal in this country is, the Committee very properly observe, real and not nominal. In starting a scheme of such magnitude the natural order ought to be duly regarded in which education and the desire for autonomy filter down, so to speak, from one section of the community to another.

Nobody denies that for the success of a scheme like this, it is necessary to repose adequate powers in the hands of Government and to provide for special exigencies. But the powers proposed to be given in the Bill to the Local Government both in the matter of framing rules with reference to almost every step in the practical operation of the scheme, and of interfering with executive details, are inconsistent with the idea of Self-Government, and the Committee point out that it would be a great advantage, if a body of general rules, or outlines of such rules, were embodied in the Bill, so as to leave no room for doubt or complaints of vexatious or high-handed interference, subversive of freedom of action. The argument urged against their contention is that such rules require to be modified to the varying conditions of different places; but this appears to be a plea and nothing more, for the Government has just published a set of rules for the election of Municipal Commissioners, and the same could have been *mutatis mutandis* easily inserted in the Bill for the election of members for local and other Boards.

The Committee then proceed to refer separately to several important sections of the present Bill. We propose to notice those only which are the most important. With reference to section 6th, the Committee rightly observe that although the present District Committees contain comparatively a large number of members, they often find a great difficulty in securing a quorum at their meetings. The Boards, it must be remembered, will represent diverse interests and various creeds, and should, therefore, consist of a sufficiently large number of members. The minimum number should, therefore, be raised from 8 to 16. In the Sudder Station of no district in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, is there likely to be such a paucity of competent persons as not to yield the number. It is also difficult to understand why the District Board should not be elected, if no Local Board be established. If there be found men able to work as nominated members, there is no reason why there should not always be found men who may be elected. The provision fixing the limit of nominated members to one-half is also objectionable. A most uncalled for and injurious change—we cannot call it an improvement—has thus been effected on the Muncipal Act in which the proportion of nominated members is one-third. With the casting vote of the Chairman, one-half of official or nominated members will amount to a standing official majority, although we are not at all prepared to insinuate that the official members should deem it their duty to support Government measures, through thick and thin. In business governed by votes a minority like this would be equivalent to nullity, and the idea of Self-Government for the people would be delusive. The minimum number of members for Local Boards should, the Committee submit, be for similar reasons be raised from 6 to 12.

The Committee next point out that the term for which members of District and Local Boards shall hold office, and the rules by which they shall retire by rotation, should be fixed by law, and not left to be dealt with by rules to be framed by the Local Government. The law on the subject as to Municipal Commissioners is general, and yet no difficulty has ever arisen on that account. The different conditions of various districts, specially with reference to the different degrees of advancement they have attained, do not necesssitate a diversity in the period during which the members should hold office, and a hard and fast rule laid down in the law would not be impracticable or troublesome.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

III.

The minute of his Excellency the Viceroy contains very cogent reasons why the office of Chairman should not, as a general rule, be held by the Magistrate of a District, and native opinion on the subject is as strong as possible. The Government of Bengal has already yielded to this opinion, so far as to devise in the new Municipal Act a scheme of Schedules by which certain Municipalities are endowed with power of electing their own Chairman, and there is no valid reason why the same concession should not be made in favour of District Boards. The position and power of the District Boards should not be made lower than those of first-class Municipalities. It is left to the discretion of the Government to extend the power in particular cases, but it would be much more satisfactory if the law gave the same power to District Boards as the Municipal Act has done in the case of Municipalities. The power of veto reserved to the Lieutenant-Governor would be *more* than sufficient to prevent an abuse of power. In any case, the two several checks—one of vetoing the election, and the other of naming the Boards which should have the power of election—are not conducive to the wholesome growth of the proposed institutions.

The maximum cost of establishment as represented by a percentage of income, should be reduced as much as possible. As a matter of fact it has been found by experience that notwithstanding the general complaint of lavish expenditure, the cost of Road Cess establishments in these provinces does not exceed one-sixth of the income. The present Cess Act fixes the maximum of cost, it is true, at one-fourth of the income, but it is time that the maximum should be reduced to one-sixth.

With reference to Section 63, the Committee point out that the powers which Local Committees of aided Schools at present enjoy should not be interfered with by the rules to be made by the Lieutenant-Governor. Those powers were secured to them by the very constitution of the scheme, and if the Committee mistake not, it was so held authoritatively by the Secretary of State on a reference made by the Government of India. The proper course would be to define in the law what is intended, and not to leave it to be treated by departmental orders. Government by law is always more conducive to confidence than Government by discretion.

The principle involved in the Section which provides for the contribution by one district for the maintenance of a hospital in another district on the ground of its being habitually used by the inhabitants of the contributing district involves a departure from the principle which applies to roads, canals, bridges and other objects, and, pressed to its legitimate conclusion, suggests the amalgamation of the two districts, and, one after the other, of all the districts into one homogeneous whole. It is to prevent amalgamation of this nature that the cardinal principle of segregation of interest is very properly insisted on other departments, and we fail to see any valid reason why an exception should specially be made in cases of dispensaries and hospitals.

The returns of births and deaths occurring outside the limits of Municipalities are at present supplied by the Police. It would require a large establishment, involving a heavy cost, if the duty were to be performed by any other agency. It is possible neither for the District, nor the Local Boards, to have their agents in every village in the District. It would be a heavy burden on their finances if the work were transferred to them. In the event of the

Government insisting upon transfer of the task from the Police to the Local Boards, provision should be made by Government for separately paying the District Boards for the necessary establishment.

It appears that with reference to Section 82, there has been a difference of opinion among the members of the Select Committee regarding the necessity of the appointment of Divisional Inspectors of Works. Colonel Trevor's views on this subject are wholly borne out by the provisions of the present law. Section 137 of the Bengal Cess Act provides for the appointment of a Superintendent of Works in every Division, or other local area, and for his pay by allotments from the Cess Funds. Judging, however, from past experience and considering the nature of the works which have to be ordinarily executed under District Boards, there is no necessity whatever for the services of an officer of high professional skill, and the appointment of such an officer would be felt as an unjust burden in most Districts. As they will have a competent and well-paid Engineer of their own, they can require no such officer; but at the same time there can be no harm in vesting the Local Government with the power of appointing an Inspector of Works, but such power should be exercised only, as at present, in those cases in which District Boards shall apply for such appointments. The functions of such officers should be consultative or advising, and not governing, the action of Local or District Boards. The Boards should pay every attention to the advice of such officers, but they should not be practically superseded by them.

As we are of opinion that the Boards should be separately paid for registering births and deaths, so we hold that they should be separately paid for Census work. The expenditure on this head should on no account be made a charge upon the Cess and its auxiliary funds. The cost at present is borne by Government from the Provincial Funds, and it is not fair to transfer provincial responsibilities to funds which are raised for very different purposes.

There should be some limit to the powers of the District Boards for establishing *hats* and fairs, and precautions should be taken to guard against placing them in competition with owners of private *hats* and fairs, and thereby checking litigation and heavy expenditure out of the District Board Funds. The Committee are of opinion that the District Board should not be permitted to speculate in business which must in the nature of things be unremunerative and inconsistent with their position as governing bodies. Should the Government insist upon giving them power to take up such work they should be restricted from establishing a *hat* or fair within 6 miles of an existing *hat*.

It would seem at first sight that the power vested by section 123 in Local Union Committees in regard to filling up tanks is a very simple and appropriate one, but if we bear in mind the actual condition of Moffussil towns and villages, it is open to serious objections. It might be contended that where an operation of the kind is requisite for the benefit of the public, an individual cannot justly be burdened with the expense of it. No doubt property has its responsibilities for the owner. But in this country tanks are excavated for private purposes, and at the same time for the use of the public. There is a religious ceremony which virtually converts the water—apart from the ground underneath—into public property, and it is the public, therefore, that should keep the water fit for use. There are many tanks belonging to persons in reduced circumstances, which cover several acres and sometimes half a mile or more. Tanks of five or ten *bigahs* in extent are common enough. They are mostly very old, and, generally speaking, in an insanitary condition; but the cost of filling them up, or even dewatering them, would involve considerably more money than what they are worth, and to force the owner to clear or fill them up would not only lead to actual confiscation of property involved, but to the ruin of the owners, for they must be sold out of their home and hearth to pay the expenses. The value of the reclaimed land will count for nothing, for an area at least equal to it must be purchased to provide earth necessary to reclaim it. The framers of the Bill have evidently taken this circumstance into their consideration, and to provide for it have suggested the sanction of the Local Board. But this is not a sufficient safe-guard. A large tank avowedly unhealthy has to be filled up, and the Local Board, in the performance of its duty, cannot take into consideration the possible effect of its action on the purse of a private individual, and serious injustice must follow. Even in Calcutta this objection was felt to be so strong that in the Municipal Act of the Metropolis a section was introduced, providing that, in the case of poor owners unable to undertake the work of cleaning, or filling up tanks the Municipality should defray the whole or a part of the cost. In a subsequent Act provision was made to buy up offensive tanks and unhealthy bustees, so that the Municipality might improve them without causing any injury to the owners. Similar provisions are more urgently necessary in the Mofussil, and the Bill should contain such provisions. The Committee of the British Indian Association suggest that in all cases in which the cost of a proposed work exceeds Rs. 25, the final decision of the case should rest with the District Board.

We have examined as shortly as we could, some of the more important points raised in the letter of the British Indian Association, and we regret that the space at our command forbids the discussion of the subject more at length in this issue. We have by no means said all that could be, and should be, said on this most important question, which is destined to mark an era in the annals of the political advancement of the people of this country. We hope to recur to the subject in an early issue.

FESTINA LENTE.

ONE must have the long life of Nilpa and Shallum and the patience of Job himself to go through and digest the present voluminous literature on the Bengal Tenancy Bill. The most recent addition to it is in the shape of a Supplement to the *India* and *Calcutta Gazettes* covering no less than 694 pages of close print. One feels perplexed by statements and counter-statements, dogmatic assertions and contradictions in almost every page of this ponderous volume. One thing is quite clear. The Bill has *not* yet assumed the form in which it can be accepted by the Government, the agricultural community, and the well-wishers of the country. "That after something like eleven years," justly observes the *Indian Daily News*, "so much can be written on doubts which occurred to the Select Committee seems to us to prove several things—first, the Government is not clear as to what it wants; second, the ministerial officers are not clear as to what the Government intends; third, both Government and its officers are groping in the dark in the hope that chance will guide them behind the Permanent Settlement; fourth, that what is proposed, or suggested, or discussed, or reported upon, or intended, or thought to be intended, or being worked out, is a multitudinous, a multifarious dealing with the land question which goes so far beyond the actual requirements of the country as to confuse those who are striving to get a new law passed, those who are to find reasons for the passing of the new law, and those, gentle and simple, who are to be affected by the new law" Yes, *eleven years* of cogitation have not enabled the Government to make up its mind as to what should be the proper form of the proposed rent-law. Another equally long period, we are afraid, must elapse before all the data upon which such an important law ought to be based can be collected and digested. We expected that the promised report of the Lieutenant-Governor would contain some fresh facts and arguments in connection with this vexed question. The report, we regret to say, is a *rechauffe* of old and stale and threadbare arguments which have been repeated over and over again. As for *fresh facts*, we may as well search the bottom of the sea for them as the report of His Honor. No attempt is made to refute the facts and arguments which the Zemindars have repeatedly brought forward. These in most cases have been passed over in silence. A sharp rebuke is administered to those of his officers who honestly pointed out the *difficulties* in the way. These are men, in His Honor's opinion, who conjure up *difficulties* and attempt to obstruct the passing of the Bill, instead of painting the latent *advantages* of the measure in rosy colours. The only fault of these honest people, who have recorded their dissent, is that they conscientiously discharged the onerous duty with which they were entrusted. But let that pass. The *nineteen* recommendations which His Honor has made distinctly show even to the most casual observer that the Bill is capable of improvement in a variety of forms. It is quite evident that the Bengal Government is yet unable to see clearly what line of action it should take to attain the object aimed at. It wavers and vacillates and shows want of decision. We find His Honor actually recommending the incorporation in the Bill of those very provisions, which after long discussion, the Select Committee rejected, as unjust, unfair, or impracticable. We are clearly of opinion that the report of the Lieutenant does not afford the slightest help to the Legislature in understanding the requirements of the country. We even go so far as to say that the report has created fresh difficulties, and has thus retarded the course of the Bill. It would be unjust and unwise under the present circumstances, to hurry through the Bill in the coming session of the Legislative Council. It would be simply impossible for the members of the Council and its President to form a decided opinion in the presence of so much confusion and uncertainty. The framers of the Bill seem to be at sea; they do not know their own minds; they propose one thing to-day, and withdraw their proposal the next day. They reject one *provision* of the Bill this moment, and wish to retain it in the same breath. As for those who are personally interested in the measure—the zemindars and their tenants—they have so many objections to almost every section of the Bill, that Lord Ripon must be a bold man if he would take upon himself the grave responsibility of passing this measure, which is still in such a crude and undeveloped form. We have too great a regard for His Lordship's reputation to advise him on the eve of his departure to open this Pandora's box containing innumerable evils sure to afflict the agricultural community. Oh no, let it remain closed—aye, for ever if possible; at any rate for a time—till the coming Viceroy can learn and utter *mantras*—magic incantations—by which the box may be exorcised, and the evils within it may vanish, and thus the agricultural community may escape from the plague which threatens them. We say with the *Statesman*, now that the facts—rack-renting and the so-called 'horrors of eviction'—have incontrovertibly been shown to be *not* facts, but wild and mischievous delusions, the Viceroy and Mr. Ilbert are bound to inquire at once for themselves, as to the grounds upon which the Bill rests; and till those grounds are correctly ascertained all action with regard to it should be suspended. If Lord Ripon is wise nothing should induce him to have anything more to do with the Bill. The representations which were made to him have been proved to be untrue, and therefore, by all that is just and fair, the Bill should be dropped at once, and the agricultural community saved from total and absolute destruction.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

LORD DUFFERIN has been unable to obtain passages for himself and family on board the P. and O. Steamer of the 5th of November, the date on which he had proposed to leave London. His departure is, therefore, put off for a week. He will sail in the *Tasmania* on the 12th of November, and will probably make the whole voyage to Bombay in that vessel, which is due there on the 10th of December.

WE ARE GLAD that in view of the gravity of the Aranghata accident, and of the imperfect nature of the first inquiry, the Lieutenant-Go-

vernor has directed a full and formal inquiry to be made into all the circumstances connected with the accident, by the Magistrate of the district at Aranghata, or if more convenient at either Ranaghat or Bogoola. We are sure many strange facts will now come to light.

MR. TAYLER and Major Ramsay of the Krishnagar students' case notoriety have been severely reprimanded by the Lieutenant-Governor, degraded, and removed from the Nuddea district. The action which has been taken by His Honor will commend itself to the judgment of all right-thinking men. It is that unfortunate circular in the Dacca students' case which must have emboldened local officials to take such cruel proceedings against the Krishnagur students. Be that as it may, we are glad that His Honor has very properly repudiated and condemned the action of his officers.

DURING the month of September 1884 (from 9th to 30th instant) twenty thousand six hundred and fifteen persons visited the Indian Museum. Of natives there were 17,583 males and 2,797 females, and of Europeans 199 males and 36 females. The daily average of visitors for the time the Museum was open to the general public was 1288.

BABU Protap Chandra Roy, the Secretary of the Datavya Bharat Karyalaya, has received Rs. 2,500 from the Government of Bombay, in aid of the English translation of the Mahabharata, which he is publishing. We wish the Government of Bombay were more liberal, considering the important work which Babu Protap Chandra is accomplishing.

THE Select Committee's report on the Bengal Tenancy Bill, says the *Englishman*, will probably be presented at the meeting of the Legislative Council in Calcutta on 24th November. This will probably be the first meeting of the Council this season in Calcutta.

"AN APPARENTLY inspired article," says the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times*, "which has appeared in the *Pioneer*, seems to show that the recent agitation against the removal of Government to the hills has not been entirely without effect. The writer states that in future, officers of the North-West Provinces Government, other than the Lieutenant-Governor and his Secretaries, will not be allowed to be more than two months continuously in the hills, and then goes on to admit, what has long been obvious to the non-official mind, that officers whose work is essentially that of supervision and inspection, such as Inspectors-General of Police, Gaols, Education, and Sanitation, Directors of Agriculture, Surgeons-General, and so on, cannot perform their duties equally well in remote hill stations. He next suggests that all local governments might spend May, June, September, and October in the hills, returning to the plains for July and August, according to the custom which always prevails in Bengal. This suggestion, if carried, into effect, will certainly be a step in the right direction, but the Indian public is not likely to rest content until Governments, supreme and subordinate, honestly admit the fact that their duties lie in the plains, and that the hill stations are only to be used as places of relaxation and for recruiting health." We commend this common-sense—inspired suggestion to the Bengal Government.

THE STATEMENT in the *Pioneer* that the opponents of the Bengal Tenancy Bill are stirring up the ryots on the Khas Mehal estates, and striving to make the Bengal authorities appear as cruel landlords in the country—has fairly taken our breath away. We knew that our contemporary is given to making black appear white and white appear black with regard to every question in which native interest is in any way affected. But we thought he was incapable of *inventing* facts to found disparaging criticism upon them against the opponents of the Rent Bill. He complains of 'pulling the strings.' We have a saying among us that we judge the world by our own standard. Our contemporary is so familiar with 'pulling the strings,' that he does not hesitate to credit the opponents of the Bill with it. The opponents of the measure are too strong in the position they have taken, and the facts and arguments on which they rely, to depend upon wire-pulling for success in their opposition.

WE NOTICE with pleasure that Raja Ramranjan Chakravarti, of Hetampur, Birbhum, has made over to Government Rs. 2,000 to found a scholarship to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Tayler, late District Judge of Birbhum. The Lieutenant-Governor has suitably acknowledged the donation.

WE TAKE the following from the *Statesman*:

The public will learn we believe, with as much surprise as ourselves, that the Government of India has written to the Home Government requesting that Sir Richard Garth, the Chief Justice of Calcutta, should be removed from the office. The ground of the request is of course Sir Richard Garth's opposition to the Tenancy Bill, in his recent minute thereon, concerning which the Viceroy complains—

That Sir Richard Garth, contrary to well understood usage, has published the minute, which was an official document, to the detriment of public interests.

That he has therein discussed at length a very important case in which the Government is one of the interested parties, while the matter is still *sub judice* in his own Court.

That he has spoken very improperly in this minute, of high Government officials.

The above will be read by every one with surprise and incredulity. The story is improbable on the face of it. The *Englishman* has received a telegram from Simla which contradicts the statement. This contradiction has given us great relief.

IN SANCTIONING the new bye-laws for the regulation of the Fire Brigade, the Lieutenant-Governor has authorised the Commissioner of Police to order, at his discretion, the payment of a gratuity of any sum not exceeding Rs. 100 to any person who shall give early notice of the outbreak of a serious fire. We would ask the Commissioner of Police to take special care that those who give notice are not persons who set fire to houses to earn the promised reward.

MISS CHANDRA MUKHI BOSE, M. A., Second Mistress, Bethune Girl's School, has been appointed to officiate as Lecturer, College Classes, in that institution. This is as it should be. Every encouragement should be given to lady graduates who have taken up the congenial work of teaching in Female Schools.

A COMPLAINT reaches us that in the office of the Revenue Secretary to the Government of Bengal, a European Assistant of only *ten* years' service has been promoted over the head of a native graduate of the Calcutta University of double that amount of service, the qualifications of the native Assistant being in no way inferior to those his European rival. This preference has, we are informed, given rise to considerable heart-burning. The Revenue Secretary may have his special reasons for showing this preference, and it would be unreasonable to criticise his action, without knowing the grounds upon which he based his choice. We simply draw the attention of Mr. MacDonnell to the fact in the hope that the native Assistants in his office may have full justice done to their claims. We would take this opportunity of urging upon the Bengal Government the necessity of introducing a system of competitive examinations similar to those held in the Indian Secretariats. This would check heart-burning and dissatisfaction.

THE RESOLUTION on the Report on the Administration of the Cooch Behar State for the half-year ending the 3rd October 1883—on which date the administration by the Bengal Government terminated on the attainment by the Maharajah of his majority—makes prominent mention of the meritorious officers who served the Cooch Behar State under the superintendence of the Bengal Government. The Resolution says: "The Lieutenant-Governor has repeatedly acknowledged the services rendered to the administration by Babu Kalikadas Dutt and other officers of the State, and he is satisfied that the Maharajah by retaining these gentlemen in his service will secure a body of officers thoroughly experienced in administrative business and of tried ability and probity." We congratulate the Dewan and his colleagues on the high praise they have earned.

WE ARE informed that, after a long and severe struggle in which both parties sustained severe loss, Messrs. Hoare Miller and Co. and Messrs. Kristo Chunder Chowdhry and Co. of this city have recently amalgamated their respective lines of Steamers plying to Culna, Katwa, Uluberiah and Midnapore, under the style of the United Steam Navigation Company. Messrs. Kristo Chunder Chowdhry and Co. deserve credit for the energy they displayed in having successfully kept up the struggle so long against tremendous odds, and we can only hope that the arrangements now made will lead to mutual benefit, and result in increased convenience to the public.

WE OBSERVE with satisfaction that country-made papers and envelopes were last year extensively used by the Government Stationary Department in lieu of English papers and envelopes, which arrangement has resulted in a saving of Rs. 41,506. We are sure that considerably more saving can be effected by a more extensive use of these articles. The available supply of locally-made stores such as pen-knives, scissors, glass inkpots &c. is, however, says the Government Resolution on the subject, small; but every effort should be made to encourage manufacturers to increase their outturn and such local products as are available even in small quantities should be utilized. The outturn of local manufactures may be considerably increased if manufacturers could be guaranteed large orders.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has requested the Commissioners of [illegible]eral Divisions to submit to Government a full and detailed report of the state and prospects of the crops, and the condition of the people, in each sub-division of each district in the province. Here are some of his directions to those gentlemen:

The report should state, in fractions of a rupee (taking 16 annas to be a full or bumper crop), what proportion of a full crop the last *bhadoi* was; what proportion of a full crop the winter rice promises to be; and what the *rubbee* prospects are. It should also state, for each subdivision where there are important non-food staples grown, what the prospects of such staples are, and whether the produce of such staples forms a large factor in the capacity of the people to withstand pressure from crop failure. Attention should also be paid to the character of last year's harvests, the current prices, and the activity or stagnation of trade; and an estimate should be formed with reference to such considerations, as well as with reference to general opinion as to the existence of stocks in the district. His Honor very properly observes that all this should be stated, without anything like inquisitorial enquiry (which, besides being useless in such a matter, could not fail to be, mischievous), whether the probability is that a two months,' or a four months' or a six months' supply is in hand, counting the outturn of the last *bhadoi* crop. The Report should also state what the prospects are with regard to the supply of water for drinking and irrigation purposes, and whether there is any likelihood of abnormal variation in the supply of fodder for cattle. The Commissioners have been particularly asked to append to the facts for each district their opinion as to the condition of each district generally, and its prospects during the coming year, from a food-supply, a water-supply, and a fodder-supply point of view. Should the condition of the district not vary materially from the normal state, no details of any kind need be given, the fact that no cause for anxiety regarding food, water, or fodder supply exists being noted as a sufficient reply to this circular. But should consideration of the state of the district lead them to anticipate any failure of the food, water, or fodder supply, or any want of employment for the people caused by a deficiency in the harvest outturn, actual or prospective, they are requested to submit, in a separate report, a detailed statement of their views and proposals with special reference to, and in the form prescribed by, the provisional Famine Code.

This shows that His Honor is anxious to avert another famine from the land. We would re-

quest the Commissioners to employ competent persons to collect information, and to use proper discretion in testing it. A great deal depends upon the correctness of the information furnished to the Government.

WE SAID in our last issue that it has been decided to hold a special examination in December next for applicants for the Statutory Civil Service: It has been settled that

For the purpose of conducting the proposed examination, a Committee will be appointed, consisting of the Director of Public Instruction, the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, and the Legal Remembrancer. The examinations will extend over four days, viz. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th, December next. On the first day an essay in English, on a subject to be prescribed hereafter, will be written by the candidates; on the second day a general paper of literary, historical, and philosophical questions will be set; on the third day there will be a general paper on mathematics and physical science; and the subjects of the fourth day's examination will be the Penal and Criminal Procedure Code and Mr. Field's introduction to the Bengal Regulations. The gentlemen allowed to appear at the examination will hereafter be informed by the Committee which will be appointed as above indicated of the place at which the examination will be held, and of any other circumstances necessary for their information.

Now that the question of improving the working of the Statutory rules is under the consideration of the Government of India, we would suggest that the Service be thrown open to public competition. We have no faith in "a test of limited competition." If the object be to select the best men, the only way in which this can be accomplished is to hold a public examination of all candidates for the Service. Of course there should be proper limitations and restrictions. If a body of general rules be published, the cadidates will know before hand what conditions they must satisfy before they can be admitted to the examination, and this can cause no dissatisfaction. The present mode of selection is essentially faulty, and we do not at all wonder that it has not been considered "satisfactory." A nomination system can never succeed.

A STATEMENT showing the division of the Mofussil Municipalities into Wards, and the number of Commissioners to be elected for each Ward under Act III (B. C.) of 1884 has been published. There will be altogether 62 Municipalities in the Province, and these Municipalities have been divided into 261 Wards. The number of elected Commissioners will be 637 altogether. This will be Local Self-Government with a vengeance. The general feeling is that under the present constitution the duties with which Commissioners of these Municipalities will be entrusted are those of 'scavengers and tax-collectors.' They will be the representatives of the rate-payers in no other sense than that they will be scape-goats upon whom the odium of taxing the people will fall, while the duty of expending the funds, which have been collected by extortionate exactions will rest with personswho are as much representatives of the rate-payers as the stars of Heaven are of factio mortals on earth. Perhaps the dissatisemorn felt about this scheme is not well-p-groded, and we are ill-natured by looking upon tour,otives of Government with jaundiced eyes. Weh incerely hope that those who are shrieking in this way are under the influence of nightmare, and that their fears are groundless.

THE RULES for the election of Municipal Commissioners in all Municipalities in the Burdwan, Presidency, Rajshahye, Dacca, Chittagong, Patna, Bhagulpore, Orissa, and Chota Naghore Divisions (except Howrah and the Suburbs of Calcutta) have been published. These rules, we understand, have been framed without giving the rate-payers of those Municipalities any opportunity of expressing their views upon them. The only persons who were consulted are the existing Commissioners, most of whom are likely to be unseated at the coming election. If our information be correct, Government has made a serious mistake in framing such important rules about a matter vitally affecting the welfare of the Province, without taking into consideration the thoughts and feelings, wants and wishes of the very persons who are most deeply interested in the question. We have heard great dissatisfaction expressed with regard to these rules.

THERE ARE philanthropists abroad who have taken it into their heads to develop the material resources of the Native States. It would seem from the manifestoes and professions of these people that British India does not any longer afford any room for agricultural improvements. They would perhaps have us believe that there is not an acre of land within the British territories in which British capital and energy can be employed with advantage. Tobacco cultivation seems to be the prevailing mania with these 'developers,' at present. But instead of invading the Native States, why do they not devote some of their energy to lands in British India? There is ample scope for it. We cannot understand why they want to seek fresh fields and pastures new in a foreign dominion for the investment of their capital. Does the Bengal Tenancy Bill frighten them? Do they think perchance that if they endeavour to reclaim waste lands in British India, the very day-labourers whom they would employ might some day claim 'cultivating rights,' depose them as landlords, and deprive them of the fruits of *their* labour?

THE RADICAL reformers of the day are bent upon wiping the tears of the miserable tillers of the soil, groaning under the oppressive exactions of those monsters of iniquity, the Zemindars of Bengal. They must be restored to the position which they held under the ancient law and custom of the country, and their 'beneficial interest' must be determined by Statute, so that the zemindars may be thrust back to that wretched state from which they were exalted by the blundering and unsympathetic framers of the Permanent Settlement. The ryots must be enriched at the expense of their landlords. But what advantage will Government derive—say simple-minded people, who cannot understand the luxury of doing good, and are unable to comprehend political necessity and the nature of State duty—by enriching one class at the expense of another? The measures which the Government is adopting to improve the agricultural status of the ryots are sure to lead to a torrent of litigation, and will usher in a reign of chaos and confusion. "We have anticipated your objections about uncertainty and confusion," say the reformers, "by the provisions of the new Tenancy Bill, by which the ryots will have easy access to courts of law to assert their rights against the Zemindar, and we have so arranged that no deed of contract will be considered valid unless it is properly stamped. By this arrangement freedom of contract will be maintained, while the Zemindar will be prevented from setting up spurious documents as genuine. By giving to the ryots an interest in the soil, and the lion's share of the profits, we materially improve their condition, make them happy and prosperous, and give them the power of taking vengeance on their oppressors. Thus there will be proper distribution of wealth, and the country will be materially benefited. As for the ryots growing too rich, there is the salutary provision of taking proper stamp-fees and Court-fees from them, which will ease them of their superfluities, and add to the public revenue. If they fail it would be easy to impose a new cess; since the promulgation of our good intentions we have already imposed two cesses, and money is forthcoming, and we can impose any number of them. Those who do not know the secrets of the science of Political Economy will perhaps think that what we give with one hand, we take with the other, and by creating ill-feeling and destroying the harmony that has hitherto existed between landlords and their tenants, we are trying to retard the healthy progress of the country. The ignorance of those who make such assertions is to be pitied. The veriest tyro in Political Economy will tell them that distribution of wealth is the only real factor of material progress in the social state. The ryots take from the zemindars in the shape of profits of cultivation, and the Government takes from the ryots in the unobjectionable form of Stamp-fees and Court-fees and cesses. Thus the distribution of wealth is complete. If the measure, we propose, be adopted, peace will reign where unrest now prevails, and the growth of prosperity and contentment among all classes of the agricultural community throughout these provinces will be fully ensured."

WE EXCEEDINGLY regret to hear that in Bengal there was a large increase in 1883, compared with the preceding year, of all classes of offences cognizable by the Police. In offences against the State and public tranquillity, there was a total increase of 131 true cases; and compared with 1881 the increase was 212. In serious offences against the person, there was an increase of 417 true cases; and compared with 1879 the increase was 708 cases. Serious offences against property increased from 18,520 in 1882 to 19,609—a total, says the Lieutenant-Governor, larger than in any year since 1879. We are informed that in 1883 there was a slight *decrease* in dacoity. But this decrease was delusive in the extreme. The daring dacoities which have taken place this year in the Presidency Division and in other districts show that the crime is on the increase, and that the efforts of the Police in repressing it have proved abortive. "It is satisfactory to learn," says His Honor, "that since the close of the year (1883) a Calcutta gang of dacoits has been traced, arrested and convicted, and their arrest has been followed by a cessation of fresh cases." There may have been a temporary lull in one district, but we know that people have not yet regained their sense of security even in the Presidency Division, and in remote districts reports of the occurrence of dacoities reach us from time to time. We are glad to hear that the Lieutenant-Governor has directed the Inspector-General of Police to prepare a complete scheme for the suppression of professional dacoity. A special system for its suppression has been developed and employed with success in the North-Western Provinces, and the Lieutenant-Governor wishes that it should be ascertained how far its principles can be usefully made applicable for the same purpose in these Provinces. One of the Deputy Inspectors-General might, His Honor thinks, be profitably employed in the preparation of the scheme under the supervision of the Inspector-General himself, and the Lieutenant-Governor would be prepared to sanction to a reasonable amount the expenditure it might necessitate. "A complete scheme for the suppression of professional dacoity" would be very acceptable, but what we are afraid of is that the scheme called for will be, although an elaborate one, perfect in all its details, and looking very imposing on paper—yet that, as is the fate of such schemes, it will all end in talk, and be of little practical value.

"HOW ARE musquitoes here?" asked a traveller when making up his mind to pass the night in the scantily-furnished dormitory of a village inn. "Oh" said the host, "they are very much like what they are in other places—tiny little insects with transparent wings which make a buzzing noise when flying." "I mean are they very troublesome and mischievous?" "Not that I know of. I have never heard them running away with other people's wives, or setting fire to their neighbours' houses." "But do they bite much?", "Certainly not, and for the best of reasons; they have no teeth to bite with." It would seem that our contemporary of the *Indian Mirror* has a copy of this anecdote hung up in his *sanctum*, and adopts its moral whenever he has any unpleasant or troublesome question to deal with. Take for example his answers to our questions relating to Mr. Lal mohun Ghose. His business was to answer us categorically and yet not to commit himself to any thing, and has he not achieved his purpose to perfection? "Mr. Lalmohun Ghose is neither the agent nor the representative of the Indian Association," says our astute contemporary, and we are bound to believe him, as did the traveller in the anecdote when he was told that the musquitoes at the hotel were very much like their congeners in other places; but we should have very much liked to know if the *Indian Mirror* did not announce when the project of sending Mr. Ghose in connexion with the Ilbert Bill was on the *tapis* that the Indian Association was to depute him. Again, Mr.

Ghose was the delegate of the Indian Association, but that was when there was no Tenancy Bill. The musquitoes cannot bite, because they have no teeth. They have, however, each a sting with a complicated arrangement of lances and saws, and it was no part of the business of the clever publican to disclose that fact. There was no Bengal Tenancy Bill, and that is enough; why enquire that the Bengal Tenancy Bill is but another name for the Rent Bill which came into existence from the time of Sir Richard Temple, and the Indian Association took to supporting it from an early part of its history, long before delegating Mr. Ghose. Was not the demonstration of ryots in Wellington Square got up by Babu Surendranath Banerjea several years ago? Again, "Mr. Ghose is not now provided with funds by the Association. He was deputed by an influential committee of Bengali gentlemen." The "now" is significant, but we need not notice it. The musquitoes cannot be mischievous, because they commit no arson. There may be "an influential committee of Bengali gentlemen," but by being members of a committee the said gentlemen do not cease to be leaders, prime movers, or friends of the Association. We do not care to name names, but is not the Secretary of the Association one of the committee? Our contemporary has unnecessarily and unbecomingly betrayed himself to a hardihood of diction when he says "we unhesitatingly assert that no leader of the Association has been trying to raise subscriptions for Mr. Ghose." He is more guarded when he says, "nor has any body, so far as we have been able to ascertain, been going about from zemindar to zemindar for subscriptions." We do not wish to cite names because we cannot do so without betraying private confidence, but we recommend him to enquire further and he will find that a leader of the Association did wait on more than one Maharaja, and some one most intimately known to our contemporary has been trying a Bengali gentleman to exert his influence with the Taluqdars of Oudh to get subscriptions. But we do not, as we said before, at all wish to prolong this personal discussion.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY AND EMACIATION.—In cases of Debility and Emaciation, the powerful curative influence of Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil is graphically described by Sir Henry Marsh, Bart, M.D., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, who, after extensive use, strongly recommended this preparation, and observed:—"I have frequently prescribed Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil. I consider it to be a very pure Oil, not likely to create disgust, and a therapeutic agent of great value." This eminent physician remarks:—"With strumous and emaciated subjects, and where the general health is impaired, the remedy tells with peculiar efficacy. The reviving and reanimating effects of a regular daily course of the animal Oil are highly satisfactory. Its favourable action on the system is renovating, it checks progressive emaciation, restores the yielding health, rebuilds, as it were, the tottering frame, and brings about a most remarkable and salutary change in all the vital functions." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTION	Rs.	As.	P.
Dr. N. K. Chattopadhya, Hyderabad.....	13	4	0
S. B. Krishna Samiyengar Esq., Bangalore	13	4	0
Gopal Gobind Ghate Esq. Kotree, Sind...	13	4	0
Secy. Reading Club, Betoor.....	13	4	0
J. Ranga Swamy Naido, Bangalore.....	10	0	0
Babu Nundolal Coondoo, Chandpore.....	13	0	0
„ Khettermohun Palit, Ajoodhya.....	3	5	0
„ Kalikanund Roy, Subornopore.....	10	0	0
„ Sreenath Roy, Ajmere.....	6	10	0
„ Gopalchunder Dhara, Sumbulpore...	20	0	0
„ Prankristo Roy, Hooghly.....	14	0	0
„ Sarodapersad Bysack, Narora.....	6	10	0
„ Annodapersad Mojoomdar, Bhowany Patna.....	6	10	0
Babu Kallychurn Sen, Kyak Phaoo,.....	13	4	0
„ Issurnarain Singh, Mozufferpore.....	16	8	0
„ Ambicacharan, Banerjea, for Friends' Association, Saidpore.....	6	0	0
„ Bulloram Das, Cuttuck.....	16	0	0
„ Hurrykrishna Mozoomdar, Berhampore.....	13	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*15th September* 1884.

GENERAL.—Baboo Anund Chunder Sen, Deputy Collector, Dacca, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector, under section 4 of Act VII (BC) of 1880 in that district.

Baboo Burhandeo Narain Singh, temporary Deputy Collector, Durbhunga, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector, under section 4 of Act VII (BC) of 1880 in that district, vice Mr H Gillon.

Baboo Keshub Lall Chatterjee, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Noakholly, is allowed leave for three months, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Poorno Chander Chatterjee, temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is allowed leave for one month, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 4th June 1884.

Mr J Posford is allowed leave for three months, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved of his present appointment as officiating District and Session Judge, Noakholly.

Baboo Soshi Kumar Dutt, Special Butwara Deputy Collector, Mymensing, is allowed leave for 21 days, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

The following promotions are sanctioned in the Behar Light Horse, with effect from the 8th ultimo:—

Lieutenant Malcolm Neynoe Macleod to be Captain, vice Captain James John Macleod, promoted.

Troop Sergeant-Major Sebright Edward Coffin to be Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant Malcolm Neynoe Macleod, promoted.

Baboo Dino Nath Addy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nowada, Gya is transferred to Burdwan, and is posted to the sudder station of that district.

Mr. W C Macpherson, Assistant Magistrate and Collector is posted to the district of Gya, and is appointed to have charge of the Nowada sub-division of that district.

Mr. Macpherson is also appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Babu Rajendrachunder Ghose, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is allowed leave for fifty-five days, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Moulvie Mohamed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensing, is allowed leave for twenty-one days, with effect from the 16th instant.

The services of Babu Okhoycoomar Roy Chowdhry, Sub-Deputy Collector, Nattore, Rajshahye, are placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue for employment on settlement work in the district of Pubna, with effect from the 6th instant.

Babu Okhoy Coomar Roy Chowdry, is vested with the power of a Deputy Collector under Regulation VII of 1882.

Moulvi Fajal Rahmon, Sub-Deputy Collector, Darjeeling, is transferred to Bogra.

Moulvi Abdool Huq, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Bogra is transferred to Darjeeling.

Babu Radhicalal Shome, Sub-Deputy Collector, Darjeeling, is transferred to Nattore in Rajshahye.

Mr R C Dutta, temporary Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the 1st grade, is confirmed in that grade, vice Mr J F Stevens.

Mr. Dutt will continue to act as Magistrate and Collector of Backergunge, until further orders.

Mr W H M Gun, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, is appointed temporarily to be Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the 1st grade, vice Mr. R C Dutt.

Mr H. F Mathews, temporary Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of second grade, is confirmed in the grade vice Mr. R C Datta.

Mr. Mathews, will continue to act as District and Sessions Judge, Furreedpore, until further orders.

Mr J K Wight, temporary Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, is confirmed in that grade, vice Mr. R C Datta.

Mr. Wight will continue to be employed on his present deputation in Assam.

Mr. G A Grierson is appointed temporarily to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, vice Mr W H M Gun.

Mr. Grierson will continue to act as Magistrate and Collector, of Gya, until further orders.

Mr G Godfrey, is appointed temporarily to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, vice Mr H F Mathews.

Mr Godfrey, being employed in Assam, is seconded in the grade.

Mr A W Mackie is appointed temporarily to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, vice Mr G Godfrey, seconded.

Mr Mackie, will continue to act as Deputy Commissioner, Manbhoom, until further orders.

Mr K G Gupta, temporary Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to act temporarily as Magistrate and Collector, Pooree, with effect from the date on which he received charge of that office, until relieved by Mr. R Porch.

Mr. G E Porter, District and Session Judge, second grade is promoted to the first grade of District and Sessions Judges, with effect from the 29th ultimo, vice Mr A G R Bainbridge.

Mr. Porter will continue to act as Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, until further orders.

Mr N S Alexander, Commissioner of Dacca, is allowed furlough for thirteen months, with effect from the 1st November 1884.

Mr E E Lowis, Commissioner of Chittagong, is appointed to act as Commissioner of Dacca, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr N S Alexander, or until further orders.

Mr. D R Lyall, Inspector-General of Police, is appointed to act as Commissioner of Chittagong, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. E E Lowis, or until further orders.

Babu Manick Lal Pal temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Pubna, is transferred to Serajgunge, in that district.

In suppression of the order of the 6th ultimo, Babu Abinash Chunder Mookerjee is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is posted to the sudder station of the Pubna district.

Mr W V G Taylor, Magistrate and Collector of Nudden, is appointed to be Magistrate and Collector of Bancoora.

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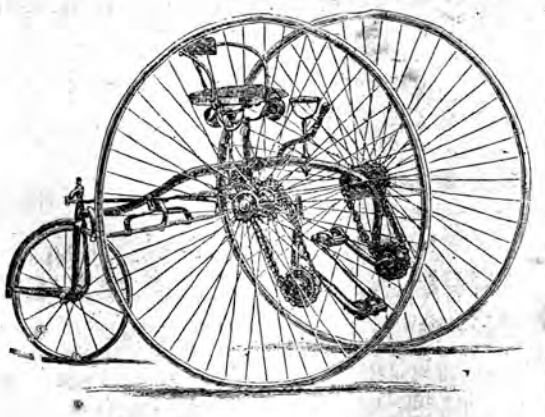

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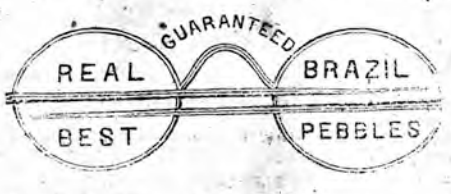

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